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ANTI-THEFT METHOD FOR DETECTING THE UNAUTHORIZED  
OPENING OF CONTAINERS AND BAGGAGE

ABSTRACT

~~The present invention introduces a method for protecting~~  
5 ~~against the unauthorized opening of shipping containers in a~~  
~~first embodiment.~~ A simple trip-wire or magnetic circuit  
associated with a shipping container provides continuity,  
which is detected electrically. Simply, if continuity is  
disabled by a forced entry of the container, electrical  
10 detection means, such as a radio-frequency-identification  
(RFID) tag, will alert the owner or monitoring station. The  
trip-wire concept would require the replacing of a broken trip  
wire (resulting from forced entry), while the magnetic circuit  
concept can be reused repetitively. <sup>In a Second Embodiment a</sup>  
15 ~~comprises a magnetic circuit approach in which the magnetic~~  
~~circuit and the detection device (RFID tag) are embedded into~~  
~~the shipping article during manufacturing.~~ The preferred  
detection device, an RFID tag, could also be a battery backed  
transceiver type on which a replaceable or rechargeable  
20 battery could be mounted on the inside of the shipping  
container during manufacturing. The RFID tag would  
communicate with an interrogator unit, which could be  
connected to a host computer. The interrogator and/or the  
host computer and/or other alarm devices would then monitor  
25 <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ shipping container's status (opened or closed).